

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 97-08

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the state has the responsibility to provide competent and thorough child abuse investigations which are sensitive to the needs of children and families and that child protective services and child abuse investigations are fitting and proper roles of governmental agencies designed to enhance the opportunities of children to grow and learn in the best environment possible to insure their future as productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that suspected child abuse should be investigated by trained law enforcement officers and that the state responsibility for child abuse investigations should be more appropriately administered by the Arkansas State Police rather than the Department of Human Services-Division of Children and Family Services which has heretofore had the dual role of investigator and service provider; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that separation of child protective services from child abuse investigation will result in a much greater likelihood that child abuse investigations will not be compromised; and

WHEREAS, Act 1240 of 1997 authorized the formation of a Family Protection Unit within the Department of Arkansas State Police to consist of the Law Enforcement Child Abuse Section; the Child and Family Protection Section; and the Child Abuse Hotline Section; further, that Section 3 of Act 1240 of 1997 authorizes a contractual arrangement between the two agencies or the Governor to issue an executive order transferring powers and duties of the Department of Human Services-Division of Children and Family Services to the Arkansas State Police with regard to the child abuse hotline and child abuse investigations; and

WHEREAS, a transition plan was adopted between the Department of Human Services-Division of Children and Family Services and the Arkansas State Police that insures continuous service delivery to, and protection of, the children of the state of Arkansas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me do hereby order and commission the transfer by a Type 2 transfer as authorized in Ark. Code Ann. §25-2-105 those parts of the Department of Human Services that have been specified in the contract or accompanying attachments to the contract between the Department of Human services and the Arkansas State Police.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at the Capitol in Little Rock on this 17th day of December in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred ninety-seven.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST